

I would appreciate it if a monthly announcement calling attention to these broadcasts can be kept in the JOURNAL, even though no titles are available. . . .

Yours sincerely,

H. M. F. BEHNEMAN, M. D.

Concerning American Medical Association leaflets on "Reliable Apparatus" and "Extension Education in Physical Therapy."

To the Editor:—We have noted that the September issue of your journal contains both the Council [A. M. A.] article "Reliable Apparatus" (page 241) and "Extension Education in Physical Therapy."

It might interest you to know that already we have sent seven copies of our pamphlet on apparatus to physicians who read of it in your journal.

The Council appreciates your graciousness and valued coöperation in publishing these two article.

Very truly yours,

HOWARD A. CARTER,

*Secretary, American Medical Association
Council on Physical Therapy.*

Concerning the editorial on "Major Disasters," printed on page 178 of the August issue. A letter from Hon. Frank L. Shaw, Mayor of Los Angeles.

To the Editor:—May I take this opportunity to thank you for your courtesy in sending me a copy of the September number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, in which is included your very splendid article on the Los Angeles Major Disaster Emergency Council.

I am sure such worthy comment, coming from one of our most widely recognized and respected medical journals, will go a long way toward stimulating public interest not only in Los Angeles, but also in other cities, in the plan that has been adopted here in Los Angeles for meeting a major disaster, should our city be so unfortunate as to be visited by one.

Personally, I feel the community has made a most progressive step forward in evolving this plan in that it recognizes frankly the possibility of disaster and wisely provides a means of coöperation and method of operation by which the community may exert its best efforts to meet the exigencies of any calamity that might occur.

The enthusiastic coöperation which the plan has received from the medical profession is deserving of the highest commendation and bespeaks well the fine sense of civic service and the spirit of self-sacrifice which have always motivated the members of the medical and nursing professions in discharging their responsibilities to society. That the plan has made a distinct impression throughout the country is evidenced by the fact that large numbers of inquiries have been received requesting information regarding the plan and its methods of operation.

Again thanking you for your courtesy and with warmest compliments and kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

FRANK L. SHAW, Mayor.

Concerning care of nurses suffering from sequelae of poliomyelitis (1934 Los Angeles outbreak).

The following communication has been received from district five of the California State Nurses' Association:

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(Copy)

October 5, 1935.

Subject: Nurses receiving compensation who are housed in institutions other than the general hospital.

Mr. Herbert C. Legg, Chairman,
Board of Supervisors for Los Angeles County,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

Because of repeated complaints received in this office concerning the medical and hospital care received by

members of this Association who are ill with poliomyelitis as a result of the 1934 epidemic, and who are receiving compensation under the terms of the California Industrial Compensation Act, a special committee was appointed to make investigations and to report to our Board of Directors.

The results of the investigations clearly show that many of the complaints are justified. It was found that in some cases the institution where these sick nurses are housed has wholly inadequate facilities for providing nursing, physiotherapy, or other necessary care. In most instances it was discovered that such medical care as is being provided is not given by men who are prepared to give orthopedic supervision. Other conditions such as nervous and mental symptoms which are common to poliomyelitis appear to be receiving little attention.

The whole situation is one which merits immediate attention of the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County.

The Board of Directors of the California State Nurses' Association, district five, at their meeting October 3, 1935, voted unanimously to approach the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County to inform them of these conditions, and to ask consideration of the following recommendations:

1. That each member of our Association, ill with poliomyelitis and receiving compensation, be placed under the care of an orthopedic surgeon approved by the Western Orthopedic Association.

2. That conditions or symptoms arising out of, or as the result of, this illness be given such attention as shall be deemed advisable by the orthopedic surgeon in charge of the case.

3. That hospital care be provided only in institutions which are in a position to furnish such personnel and equipment as may be deemed necessary and sufficient by an approved orthopedic surgeon.

The Board of Directors of the California State Nurses' Association, district five, further stipulated that the County Medical Association be informed of our action in the matter and their coöperation requested, and that copies of this communication be sent to the following:

Each County Supervisor; Dr. John Pomeroy, County Health Officer; Dr. Phoebus Berman, Medical Director, Los Angeles County General Hospital; Dr. George Parrish, City Health Officer; Los Angeles County Medical Association; Doctor Ruddock, Chairman of the Poliomyelitis Committee; Doctor Young, President, Local Chapter, Western Orthopedic Association; and Public Welfare Commission.

We are sure that the Supervisors of Los Angeles County are interested in the welfare of these women who are their charges. A great deal of concern has been engendered regarding their condition, not only among the 2,400 members of the local district of the State Nurses' Association, but also on the part of many persons outside the nursing profession. This matter is of such vital importance that we feel justified in urging your careful and immediate attention.

Yours very sincerely,

THE CALIFORNIA STATE NURSES' ASSOCIATION, INC.,
DISTRICT FIVE.

By HELEN D. HALVORSEN, R. N., President.

Concerning coroner and medical examiner system articles, printed in October issue, on pages 274 and 275.

THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE OF CHICAGO

October 8, 1935.

To the Editor:—I have read the paper by Doctor Carr on the coroner's system and also the comments on the paper by Dr. Oscar T. Schultz. I find myself in complete agreement with Doctor Schultz's comments. Perhaps I should add that in some states, of which Illinois is one, the constitution provides for the election of a coroner in each county, and that consequently no radical change can be made in the coroner's system in those states without changes in the constitution. In Chicago, for instance, no such change could be made in the conduct of the coroner's office as has been done in San Francisco. The conduct of the office rests entirely with the coroner, and the standards will vary from coroner to coroner. I think it is fair to say that under the coroner's system it is impossible for the public to obtain the full service that medical science can give in medicolegal matters.

637 South Wood Street.

Yours very truly,

LUDVIG HEKTOEN, M. D.